

//UNCLASSIFIED//

091510Z Jun 11

FROM CDR USAJMC ROCK ISL IL//AMSJM-QAS//

740(A)

SUBJECT: AMMUNITION INFORMATION NOTICE (AIN) 132-11,
ADVISORY/RESTRICTION WHEN FIRING M777-SERIES TOWED HOWITZER WITH
CHARGE, PROPELLING, 155MM: M232A1 (DODAC 1320-DA13)

1. AIN 131-11 WAS TRANSMITTED ON 091335Z Jun 11.

2. THIS AIN SUPERSEDES AIN 088-10.

3. DODIC(S): DA13, D532

4. REFERENCE:

A. MARINE CORPS TM-10407A-10/1 / ARMY TM 9-1025-215-10; OPERATOR'S
MANUAL FOR HOWITZER, MEDIUM, TOWED: 155MM, M777 (1025-01-445-0991);
HOWITZER, MEDIUM, TOWED: 155MM, M777A1 (1025-99-411-1447)
(EIC:3ET)/HOWITZER, MEDIUM, TOWED: 155MM, M777A2 (1025-99-463-7551)
(EIC:3EU); MAY 2010

5. REQUEST THAT THIS INFORMATION BE DISSEMINATED TO ALL
ORGANIZATIONS/ACTIVITIES THAT STORE AND MAINTAIN CONVENTIONAL
AMMUNITION.

6. REQUEST DISSEMINATION OF THIS AIN TO ALL 155MM ARTILLERY USING
UNITS, RANGE SAFETY OFFICERS, AMMUNITION SURVEILLANCE
(QASAS) AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT (ASP) PERSONNEL.

7. CAUTION USERS OF THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY/RESTRICTION WHEN FIRING
THE M777-SERIES TOWED HOWITZER WITH M232A1 PROPELLING CHARGE
(DODAC 1320-DA13):

** CAUTION **

** FAILURE TO TAKE THE USER ACTIONS OUTLINED BELOW **

** COULD RESULT IN WEAPON DAMAGE **

** THAT CAUSES MISFIRES **

** AND CAN "DEADLINE" THE M777-SERIES TOWED HOWITZER **

A. SUMMARY OF PROBLEM: DURING TESTING AT PROVING GROUND FROM SEPTEMBER 2008 THROUGH APRIL 2009 IT WAS OBSERVED THAT THE M777-SERIES TOWED HOWITZER EXHIBITED SIGNIFICANTLY DEGRADED RELIABILITY OF PRIMER FEED MECHANISM (PFM) COMPONENTS AND THE BREECH MECHANISM WHEN FIRED AT M232A1 CHARGE-5H. THE RESULTING DAMAGE OF PFM COMPONENTS CAUSES MISFIRES AND CAN "DEADLINE" THE M777-SERIES TOWED HOWITZER POTENTIALLY WITHIN LESS THAN FIFTY (50) ROUNDS.

B. PARTS, ASSEMBLY OR COMPONENTS AFFECTED: REPEATED FIRINGS OF THE M777-SERIES TOWED HOWITZER AT M232A1 CHARGE-5H CAUSES DAMAGE TO VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE M776 CANNON FIRING MECHANISM INCLUDING THE M51 FIRING MECHANISM, PFM, FIRING PIN, FIRING PIN RETAINER CLIP, THE SPINDLE (SPECIFICALLY THE LUGS THAT INTERFACE WITH THE FIRING MECHANISM HOUSING, PFM BODY ASSEMBLY), THE PFM TRAY AND THE MAGAZINE.

C. USER ACTIONS: CREW PERSONNEL ARE RESTRICTED FROM FIRING M232A1 CHARGE-5H FROM THE M777-SERIES TOWED HOWITZER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. UNITS MAY CONTINUE TO FIRE THE M203A1 CHARGE-8S (DODAC 1320-D532) AND THE M232 CHARGE-5H (DODAC 1320-DA13) AS A SUBSTITUTE. CREW PERSONNEL ARE INSTRUCTED TO RESTRICT FIRING OF M232A1 TO CHARGE-3H AND CHARGE-4H ONLY FROM THE M777-SERIES TOWED HOWITZER (DO NOT FIRE M232A1 CHARGE-5H). THIS OPERATIONAL RESTRICTION SHALL REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. PLACE A COPY OF THIS NOTICE WITHIN THE REFERENCED TM (PARA 3) UNTIL THIS AIN IS RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.

D. PROGRAM SPONSOR ACTIONS: JOINT PROGRAM MANAGER FOR LIGHTWEIGHT TOWED HOWITZER HAS INITIATED A PROGRAM TO UPGRADE THE FIRING MECHANISM COMPONENTS THAT WILL INCREASE THE RELIABILITY OF THE M777-SERIES TOWED HOWITZER AND REMOVE THE FIRING RESTRICTION. FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED TO ALL AFFECTED UNITS AS SOON AS A SOLUTION IS IDENTIFIED. ALL CORRECTIVE ACTIONS, INCLUDING RETROFIT HARDWARE, WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE PROGRAM MANAGER AT NO COST TO THE UNITS.

E. SUPPLY STATUS: THE SUPPLY SYSTEM WILL NOT BE AFFECTED. THE PROGRAM MANAGER PLANS ON DIRECTLY PROCURING WHATEVER RETROFIT HARDWARE IS REQUIRED TO MITIGATE THIS PROBLEM.

8. REMINDER FOR IDENTIFYING AND DISTINGUISHING M232 FROM M232A1. NOTE THAT THE M232 AND M232A1 CHARGES MUST NEVER BE MIXED TO CREATE A CHARGE. THE M232 AND M232A1 HAVE DIFFERENT MUZZLE VELOCITIES AT

CHARGE-3H, CHARGE-4H AND CHARGE-5H. UNITS NEED TO ENSURE THEY SELECT THE PROPER MODEL WITHIN SOFTWARE AND FIRING TABLES.

A. THE M232 AND M232A1 BOTH HAVE THE SAME DODAC (1320-DA13), BUT IN ADDITION TO DIFFERENT MODEL NUMBERS THEY ALSO HAVE DIFFERENT NATIONAL STOCK NUMBER (NSN) AS FOLLOWS:

M232 NSN 1320-01-457-4063
M232A1 NSN 1320-01-526-6523

B. ANOTHER IDENTIFIER FOR DISTINGUISHING THE M232 AND M232A1 MODELS IS THAT THE LAST SIX DIGITS OF THE M232'S LOT NUMBER ALWAYS STARTS WITH "0279_ _" WHILE THE LAST SIX DIGITS OF THE M232A1'S LOT NUMBER ALWAYS STARTS WITH "0310_ _".
BELOW ARE EXAMPLES:

M232 LOT GDB05E-027924
M232 LOT ITH02D-027901
M232A1 LOT GDB05H-031001
M232A1 LOT GDB07G-031013

9. THE POC FOR CONTENT IS SFAE-AMO-CAS, DSN 880-7091. POC FOR DISTRIBUTION IS AMSJM-QAS, DSN 793-7295 OR COMMERCIAL (309) 782-7295.

10. THIS AIN WILL EXPIRE 30 JUNE 12 UNLESS RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.

//SIGNED//
CHIEF, AMMUNITION SURVEILLANCE DIVISION